

REMARKS

Claims 1-38 are pending. The above amendment is submitted in order to cancel the product claims, limit the remaining method claims to the elected subject matter, and add dependent method claims (claims 39-103) corresponding to original dependent claims 2-17. If the above amendment is entered, claims 21-24 and 39-103 would be pending. No new matter would be introduced by this amendment.

Elected Subject Matter

Initially, applicants wish to point out that page 5 of the Office Action mistakenly indicates that f is 1 in the elected subject matter. Actually, f is 0 in the elected subject matter (and this is reflected in the above amendment) because f is 0 in the elected species of example 53. In the compound of example 53, the carbon atom carrying the 2,4-dimethoxyphenyl group and a hydrogen atom together with these two substituents corresponds to the group $C(R^2)(R^3)$ representing the D group of formula I, and the NH group bonded to that carbon atom corresponds to the $(N-R)_d$ moiety of formula I. Thus, in the compound of example 53, the number f is clearly 0.

Unobviousness

The claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Zoller WO '008, US Pat. '293, US Pat. 594, CA 123:314540, and the abstract of DE '944 (Office Action at pp. 2-3). The claims also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Zoller CA 123:340969 and the abstract of WO '008 (Office Action at pp. 3-4). Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It should be immediately apparent to the Examiner that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to use the prior art's compounds for the methods of claims 21-24, without the hindsight benefit of knowing from the present specification that they possess VI.A-4 antagonizing activity, the activity upon which all of the pending claims are based. The prior art only discloses that these compounds possess fibrinogen receptor antagonistic activity, and the prior art postulates that the compounds might be useful in

methods based on the fibrinogen receptor antagonistic activity, including platelet aggregation, thrombosis prevention, inhibition of osteoclast binding, and inhibition of cancer metastases.

Quite apart from the complete lack of motivation, the prior art would not have enabled one of ordinary skill in the art to carry out the presently claimed treatments. Given only Zoller's data on fibrinogen receptor activity, one of ordinary skill in the art certainly would not have been enabled to carry out the instantly claimed methods which are based on the present specification's showing of VLA-4 receptor antagonization.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are requested. In the event that any issues remain, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with any proposal that would further expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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